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FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



October 15, 2001

FLORIDA

PEANUTS: Production is estimated at 252.3 million pounds, up 4 percent from last month and 18 percent from last year. The estimated yield for 2001 is 2,900 pounds, up 100 pounds from the previous month and up 415 pounds from 2000. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 87,000 acres, up one percent from last year. Harvest was active during September with 50 percent of the peanuts reported harvested on October 1 as compared with 40 percent last year.

SUGARCANE FOR SUGAR AND SEED: Crop condition remains good. The crop escaped significant damage from strong winds and heavy rains when Tropical Storm Danielle passed over the Peninsula about mid-September. Producers expect to begin cutting a total of 465,000 acres about mid-October. Production is expected to total 16,740,000 tons.

TOBACCO: Production is estimated at 11,700,000 pounds compared with 11,475,000 pounds harvested in 2000. Acreage harvested is set at 4,500 acres while yield per acre is estimated at 2,600 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from the 2000 average of 2,550 pounds. Growers finished harvesting by mid-September with the majority of the crop sold under contract.

PECANS: Production of all varieties is expected to total 5,300,000 pounds, up 61 percent from the 3,300,000 pounds produced last year. Production of improved varieties is set at 2,800,000 pounds or about 53 percent of the total production. Production of native and seedling varieties is estimated at 2,500,000 pounds or 47 percent of total production. Last year, improved variety production was 1,200,000 pounds or 36 percent of the total while production from native and seedling varieties totaled 2,100,000 pounds or 64 percent of all production.

WINTER POTATOES: Preliminary production data showed that producers dug 1,325,000 cwt of potatoes during January, February and March, up 125,000 cwt from the previous April 1 estimate, but down 755,000 cwt or 36 percent from the 2,080,000 cwt harvested during the winter of 2000. The production decline reflects the acreage abandoned in Dade County due to early December rains. Yield averaged 265 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt from the 2000 yield. Acreage harvested totaled 5,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from last year.

UNITED STATES

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 3.87 billion pounds, up 4 percent from last month and 19 percent above last year's crop. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.39 million acres, unchanged from September but up 4 percent from 2000. Yields are expected to average 2,783 pounds per acre, 104 pounds above last month and up 339 pounds from 2000. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.21 billion pounds, up 7 percent from last month and 20 percent above last year's level. Yield in the four-State area is expected to average 2,888 pounds per acre, up 186 pounds from September and 495 pounds above 2000. Yield prospects in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia improved from last month while South Carolina was unchanged.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at a record high 36.6 million tons, fractionally lower than the September forecast but 1 percent above the previous record of 36.1 million tons set last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest a record high 1.03 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2001 crop year. This is slightly lower than the previous month but slightly higher than last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 35.5 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from the September 1 forecast but 0.3 ton above last year's yield. Louisiana's harvested acreage is down 1 percent from last year's record high acreage. This is the first year-to-year decline since 1996. The yield and production forecasts in Louisiana are record highs, due to abundant moisture and near normal temperatures during most of the growing season.

TOBACCO: Flue-cured production is expected to total 595 million pounds, 2 percent above last month but down 1 percent from 2000. Growers plan to harvest 247,500 acres in 2001, down 1 percent from last year. Yields are forecast to average 2,403 pounds per acre, 51 pounds above the September forecast and 7 pounds more than the previous year. Yields in North Carolina, the leading flue-cured State, increased from the September forecast due to excellent growing conditions. The absence of destructive tropical storms has limited any decreases to yield potential.

WINTER POTATOES: The final 2001 winter potato production is estimated at 4.12 million cwt, up 3 percent from the April forecast but 17 percent below last year. Winter potatoes were harvested from an estimated 14,000 acres in 2001, the same as in April but 18 percent below the 2000 crop. The average yield of 294 cwt per acre was a record high for winter potatoes, up 9 cwt from the April 1 forecast and 2 cwt above the previous high set last year.

PECANS: The October 1 forecast of 2001 pecan production is 355

million pounds (in-shell basis), up 69 percent from last year but 13 percent below the record high crop in 1999. The expected alternate bearing cycle has combined with good growing conditions to yield a sharply larger crop size. Improved varieties are expected to make up 239 million pounds or 67 percent of the total, while the Native and seedling varieties make up the balance. The Georgia forecast, at 105 million pounds, is 31 percent above last year's crop. Most of the increase is related to the alternate bearing cycle. Good growing conditions in June and July benefitted the Georgia crop. However, dry conditions in late summer, limb breakage, and insect problems have reduced this crop's potential. Harvest had not yet begun as of September 30.

COTTON: Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 13.9 million acres, is unchanged from the September estimate but is 8 percent above last year. In the Southeastern States, development continued to lag behind normal during most of September. Below-normal temperatures resulted in bolls opening slowly, especially in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Despite the slow development, conditions continued to be rated mostly fair-to-good and harvest was underway throughout the region by mid-September.

CORN FOR GRAIN: Acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 69.2 million acres, unchanged from September but down 5 percent from 2000. As of September 30, eighty-one percent of the corn acreage was mature in the 18 major producing States. This compares with 91 percent last year and the average of 80 percent. Harvest, at 20 percent complete, was underway and compares with 36 percent harvested in 2000 and the average of 22 percent. Below-normal temperatures delayed ripening and drying of the corn crop across most of the Corn Belt during September. Dry September weather allowed corn to mature and harvest to progress rapidly throughout the Southeast.

SOYBEANS: Area expected for harvest, at a record high 74.1 million acres, is unchanged from September but 2 percent above 2000 harvested acreage. As of September 30, seventy-nine percent of the crop had dropped leaves. This is slightly behind the 5-year average. Soybeans were most advanced in Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, where 91 percent or more of the crop had already dropped leaves. Soybean harvest was behind normal as of September 30, with 16 percent of the acreage harvested, 19 percentage points behind 2000 and 7 points behind the average. Harvest in most areas of the Corn Belt and Great Plains were behind the 5-year average. However, harvest progress was slightly ahead of normal along the lower Ohio Valley and Mississippi Delta.

Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of October 1, 2001 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2000	For harvest 2001	2000	Indicated 2001		2000	Indicated 2001
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton ^{2/}	106	124	480	650	^{1/}	106	168
Peanuts	86.0	87.0	2,485	2,900	Lbs.	213,710	252,300
Pecans, all					Lbs.	3,300	5,300
Potatoes:							
Winter	8.0	5.0	260	265	Cwt	2,080	1,325
Spring ^{2/}	21.5	22.0	295	270	Cwt	6,343	5,940
Sugarcane	445	465	38.3	36.0	Ton	17,045	16,740
Tobacco, Type 14	4.5	4.5	2,550	2,600	Lbs.	11,475	11,700
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	72,732	69,191	137.1	136.3	Bu.	9,968,358	9,429,543
Cotton, all ^{4/}	10,053	14,138	632	681	^{1/}	17,188.3	20,072.0
Hay, All	59,854	63,833	2.54	2.54	Ton	152,183	162,303
Peanuts for nuts	1,336.0	1,390.5	2,444	2,783	Lbs.	3,265,505	3,869,850
Pecans, all					Lbs	209,850	355,300
Potatoes:							
Winter	17.0	14.0	292	294	Cwt	4,960	4,115
Spring ^{2/}	75.6	72.5	290	269	Cwt	21,921	19,500
Summer ^{2/}	63.2	59.2	304	296	Cwt	19,236	17,503
Fall	1,192.2	1,089.2	392	^{5/}	Cwt	467,504	^{5/}
Rice	3,039	3,290	6,281	6,328	^{3/}	190,872	208,193
Sorghum for grain	7,723	8,777	60.9	61.0	Bu.	470,070	535,795
Soybeans for beans	72,408	74,137	38.1	39.2	Bu.	2,757,810	2,907,042
Sugarbeets	1,374.3	1,330.9	23.6	21.3	Ton	32,436	28,349
Sugarcane for sugar and seed	1,025.7	1,029.2	35.2	35.5	Ton	36,117	36,554
Tobacco, All	472.4	451.2	2,229	2,299	Lbs.	1,052,998	1,037,569
Tobacco, Type 14	35.5	31.5	2,262	2,429	Lbs.	80,295	76,500
Wheat, all	53,133	48,653	42.0	40.2	Bu.	2,232,460	1,957,643
Winter	35,072	31,295	44.7	43.5	Bu.	1,566,023	1,361,479
Durum	3,572	2,789	30.7	30.0	Bu.	109,805	83,556
Other spring	14,489	14,569	38.4	35.2	Bu.	556,632	512,608

^{1/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales. ^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
^{3/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. ^{4/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton. ^{5/} First forecast in November.